

Prepared for  
Department of the Navy

in accordance with  
Chief of Naval Operations Instruction 5090.1B

pursuant to  
Executive Order 12114  
and  
National Environmental  
Policy Act Section 102(2)(C)



**Draft**  
**Supplemental**  
**Environmental Impact Statement**  
for  
**Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System**  
**Low Frequency Active (SURTASS LFA) Sonar**

**November 2005**

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Abstract

This Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) evaluates the potential environmental impacts of employing the Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System (SURTASS) Low Frequency Active (LFA) sonar. It has been prepared by the Department of the Navy in accordance with the requirements of Presidential Executive Order (EO) 12114 (Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions) and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The Navy currently plans to operate up to four SURTASS LFA sonar systems. At present the Research Vessel (R/V) *Cory Chouest* and the USNS IMPECCABLE (T-AGOS 23) are the only vessels equipped with SURTASS LFA sonar. The additional SURTASS LFA sonar systems would be installed on the USNS VICTORIOUS (T-AGOS 19) Class ocean surveillance vessels. In addition to the No Action Alternative, the SEIS analyze four alternatives. The analysis of these five alternatives is intended to address NEPA deficiencies identified in the Ninth District Court's 26 August 2003 opinion, as well as to fulfill the Navy's responsibilities under NEPA with regard to providing additional information related to the proposed action. The SEIS considers mitigation measures including coastal standoff restrictions of 22 and 46 km (12 and 25 nm) and the designation of additional offshore biologically important areas.

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